

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9039

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 9787

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MO

SUBJECT: SUSPENSION OF UNFP

1. FRENCH PRESS HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO KING HASSAN' S DECISION TO SUSPEND BOUABID FACTION OF UNFP. FIGARO, FOR EXAMPLE, IN ITS APRIL 4 ANALYSIS OF SITUATION, CITING CONTINUING LIBYAN EFFORTS TO SUBVERT REGIME, RECENT INCIDENTS IN MIDDLE ATLAS, ARRESTS OF ALLEGED SUBVERSIVES, AND SUSPENSION OF UNFP, CONCLUDED THAT SITUATION IN MOROCCO HAD ONCE AGAIN BECOME MORE SERIOUS. IN ITS VIEW BOUABID AND HIS FRIENDS HAD ALWAYS SOUGHT LEGAL MEANS OF OPPOSITION AND IF THEY HAVE INDEED GONE OVER TO ARMED SUBVERSION, WHETHER OR NOT AIDED FROM OUTSIDE COUNTRY, IT WAS A GESTURE OF DESPAIR, THE AVOWAL OF A POLITICAL IMPASSE AND THE START OF A NEW AND TRAGIC PERIOD OF TROUBLES, THE OUTCOME OF WHICH NO ONE COULD PREDICT.

2. COMMUNIST HUMANITE HAS BEEN EVEN MORE CRITICAL OF DEVELOPMENTS. TAKING ITS LINE FROM DECLARATION PUBLISHED APRIL 3 BY FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARIAT, CPF DECLARATION STATED THAT SUSPENSION OF UNFP HAD " PROVOKED A GRAVE DISQUIET AMONG FRENCH WORKERS AND DEMOCRATS". ROYAL POWER, HAVING
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GIVEN ITSELF OVER TO REPRESSION AGAINST PATRIOTS AND NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE PARTIES, WAS TRYING TO MASK THE DIFFICULTIES OF REGIME FACED WITH A GROWING MOVEMENT OF THE POPULAR MASSES. PCF EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH ALL NATIONAL AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES AND DEMANDED END OF REPRESSION, LIBERATION OF ALL PATRIOTS AND REESTABLISHMENT OF ALL DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES IN MOROCCO.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PRESS HAS TENDED TO TAKE VIEW THAT SUSPENSION OF UNFP IS SIGN OF GROWING POLITICAL CRISIS IN MOROCCO, QUAI D'ORSAY IS SOMEWHAT MORE RESERVED. ACCORDING TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS DE WARREN, SUSPENSION OF UNFP MIGHT BE PRELUDE TO RENEWED EFFORT BY KING TO NEGOTIATE WITH POLITICAL PARTIES. DE WARREN SPECULATED THAT BY EXCLUDING LEFT WING OF UNFP, SOME OF WHOSE MEMBERS ON BASIS OF EVIDENCE PRESENTED BY MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT CLEARLY INVOLVED IN SUBVERSION, KING MIGHT BE PREPARING APPROACH TO MODERATE POLITICAL PARTIES SUCH AS ISTIQLAL AND CASABLANCA FACTION OF UNFP. DE WARREN SAID THAT ANY SUCH EFFORT WOULD OF COURSE RUN UP AGAINST FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM OF WHETHER KING PREPARED TO SHARE HIS POWER TO ANY SIGNIFICANT DEGREE. AT PRESENT KING DID NOT SEEM WILLING TO DO SO. DE WARREN POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN VIRTUALLY NO DISTURBANCES IN AFTERMATH OF SUSPENSION OF UNFP AND THIS IN ITSELF SUGGESTED THAT NO IMMEDIATE CRISIS SEEMED TO BE IN OFFING.
IRWIN

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